

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-31 are presently pending, with all claims standing rejected. Claims 1, 10, and 19-25 are herein amended and claims 4, 5, 13 and 14 are herein cancelled. Support for the claim amendments is found throughout the specification as originally filed. For example, see page 26, line 10 through page 30, line 17. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reilly (U.S. Patent No. 6,427,164 B1) and Nielson (U.S. Patent No. 6,405,234 B1). Applicant herein cancels claims 4, 5, 13 and 14, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot. In addition, Applicant herein amends claims 1, 10, and 19-25, representing all independent claims of the application, to include features that Reilly and Nielson, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest.

An aspect of Applicant's invention as recited by amended claim 1 includes the following features:

wherein said address change notification deputization service server checks the path of the e-mail that has been transferred from said second provider server and makes a notification to the sender of the e-mail to the effect that the e-mail address of said client is said second mail address in the case that this e-mail is received by said second provider server after transferred by said first provider server,

wherein said address change notification deputization service server makes a notification, to said client, of path information indicating whether said e-mail is sent via said first provider server or directly to said second provider server, and

wherein said path information includes information as a result of classifying a plurality of said e-mails as e-mails sent via said first provider and e-mails sent directly to said second provider server and of statistically processing the classified e-mails.

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This means that an address change notification deputization service server checks the path of e-mails transferred by a second provider server and notifies a client of path information indicating whether an e-mail is sent via a first provider server or directly to the second provider server. In addition, the path information includes information resulting from classifying the e-mails as e-mails sent via the first provider server and e-mails sent directly to the second provider server and statistically processing the classified e-mails.

Neither Reilly nor Nielson disclose, teach or suggest an address change notification deputization service server that makes a notification to a client of path information that includes information resulting from classifying e-mails as e-mail sent via a first provider server and e-mails sent directly to a second provider server and statistically processing the classified e-mails. Through the use of this feature, "the client [] may stop the e-mail address change notification service or may cancel the contract with the old provider." See specification as originally filed at page 29, lines 6-12.

Reilly and Nielson, neither alone nor in combination, disclose such a feature. Accordingly, neither Reilly nor Nielson disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicant contends that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art and respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Independent claims 10 and 19-25, while not identical to claim 1, include features similar to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant contends that these claims are also allowable over the applied art for the reasons set forth above that claim 1 is allowable and respectfully requests that the rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 3, 6-9, 11, 12, 15-18, and 26-31 include all the features of the independent claim from which they depend. Thus, claims 2, 3, 6-9, 11, 12, 15-18, and 26-31 are also allowable over the applied art for the reasons set forth above that their respective independent claims are allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

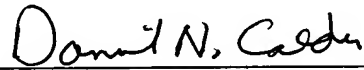
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Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-3, 6-12, and 15-31 are in condition for allowance and early notification of that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel N. Calder, Reg. No. 27,424
Stephen J. Weed, Reg. No. 45,202
Attorneys for Applicant

SJW/fp

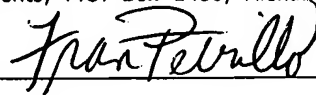
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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980
(610) 407-0700

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